

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A server reservation method enabling a user using a user terminal apparatus to make a reservation request to a reservation control apparatus to reserve a desired service supply time period for using a processing server that performs predetermined processing, the reservation control apparatus controlling a reservation state of said processing server via a network so as to permit said user terminal apparatus to use functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via the network, said server reservation method comprising steps of:

sending reservation request information including the desired service supply time period for using said processing server from said user terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network, said reservation control apparatus determining if the reservation request for using said processing server during said desired service supply time period will be accepted,

said processing server being a separate device and separated from said reservation control apparatus by the network; and

transmitting a current time reference value from said reservation control apparatus to said user terminal apparatus via the network if the reservation request is accepted, said current time reference value determining when said reservation state of said processing server will permit access by the user terminal apparatus to the processing server for using the processing server during said desired service time.

2. (Previously Presented) The server reservation method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

calculating a difference in real time between said current time reference value and a value of current time indicated at said user terminal apparatus; and
notifying the user of said user terminal apparatus of said difference in real time.

3. (Previously Presented) The server reservation method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

changing a value of current time being used at said user terminal apparatus based on any difference between said current time reference value and said value of current time being used at said user terminal.

4. (Original) The server reservation method according to claim 1, wherein
said predetermined processing executed by said processing server is processing of distributing content data by streaming to a requesting client terminal apparatus via the network.

5. (Previously Presented) The server reservation method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

acquiring said current time reference value at said processing server used for determining when said reservation state of said processing server will permit access by the user terminal apparatus to the processing server for using the processing server during said desired service time from a predetermined network time protocol (NTP) server, and

acquiring said current time reference value at said reservation control apparatus that is transmitted in said transmitting step from said predetermined network time protocol (NTP) serve.

6. (Currently Amended) A reservation control apparatus configured to process reservation requests for using a processing server that carries out predetermined processing in a manner permitting a user terminal apparatus to use functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via a network, said reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service supply time period to use said processing server sent from said user terminal apparatus via the network,

said processing server being a separate device and separated from said reservation control apparatus by the network;

means for determining whether or not the reservation request for the use of said processing server during said desired service supply time period will be accepted, and

transmitting means for transmitting a current time reference value to the user terminal apparatus via the network when the determining means accepts the reservation for the use of said processing server during said desired service supply time period, said current time reference value determining when said processing server can be accessed by the user terminal apparatus for using the processing server in accordance with the accepted reservation.

7. (Previously Presented) The reservation control apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for acquiring said current time reference value from a ~~said~~ predetermined network time protocol (NTP) server, said predetermined network time protocol (NTP) server also supplying the current time value to said processing server.

8. (Currently Amended) A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a reservation control apparatus configured to process reservation requests for using a

processing server that carries out predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to use functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via a network, said program comprising processing steps of:

receiving reservation request information including a desired service supply time period to use said processing server sent from said user terminal apparatus via the network,

said processing server being a separate device and separated from said reservation control apparatus by the network;

determining whether or not the reservation request for the use of said processing server during said desired service supply time period will be accepted, and

transmitting a current time reference value to the user terminal apparatus via the network when the determining step determines that the reservation for the use of said processing server during said desired service supply time period will be accepted, said current time reference value determining when said processing server can be accessed by the user terminal apparatus for using the processing server in accordance with the accepted reservation.